

1      **CLAIMS**

2      1. A computer system comprising:  
3            an infrared (IR) transceiver;  
4            a port detector to detect which communication ports are available, the  
5            communication ports having corresponding virtual port names; and  
6            a port renaming module to identify at least one of the communication ports  
7            as being associated with the IR transceiver and to rename the one communication  
8            port from its corresponding virtual port name to a different virtual port name.

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10     2. A computer system of claim 1, wherein the different virtual port name  
11        is descriptive to inform a user that the corresponding communication port is  
12        associated with the IR transceiver.

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14     3. A computer system of claim 1, wherein the port detector is configured  
15        to cycle through the communication ports and attempt to open the communication  
16        ports, the port detector using results from the attempts to determine whether the  
17        communication ports are available.

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19     4. A computer system of claim 1, further comprising a system registry  
20        that contains configuration parameters of the computer system, wherein the port  
21        renaming module is configured to check the system registry to identify the one  
22        communication port associated with the IR transceiver.

1       5. A computer system of claim 1, wherein the port renaming module is  
2 configured to rename the communication port associated with the IR transceiver  
3 from the different virtual port name back to the corresponding virtual port name.

4

5       6. A computer system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface to  
6 present a list of the virtual port names along with the different virtual port name.

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8       7. An operating system, embodied on a computer-readable medium,  
9 comprising:

10       computer-executable instructions to detect which communication ports of a  
11 computer are available, the communication ports having corresponding virtual port  
12 names; and

13       computer-executable instructions to identify at least one of the  
14 communication ports as being used for communicating with an infrared (IR)  
15 device and to rename the one communication port from its corresponding virtual  
16 port name to a different virtual port name.

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18       8. An operating system of claim 7, wherein the different virtual port  
19 name is descriptive to inform a user that the corresponding communication port is  
20 associated with the IR device.

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22       9. An operating system of claim 7, further comprising computer-  
23 executable instructions to attempt to open each of the communication ports as a  
24 way to determine whether the communication ports are available.

1       10. An operating system of claim 7, further comprising computer-  
2 executable instructions to rename the communication port associated with the IR  
3 device from the different virtual port name back to the corresponding virtual port  
4 name.

5  
6       11. An operating system of claim 7, further comprising computer-  
7 executable instructions to present a list of virtual port names along with the  
8 different virtual port name.

9  
10      12. A computer comprising:  
11           a processor; and  
12           the operating system of claim 7, embodied on the computer-readable  
13 medium, and executed on the processor.

14  
15      13. A computer program module, embodied on a computer-readable  
16 medium, comprising:  
17           computer-executable instructions to identify a communication port for use  
18 in communicating with an infrared (IR) device; and  
19           computer-executable instructions to rename the communication port to a  
20 descriptive virtual port name.

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22      14. A computer program module of claim 13, further comprising  
23 computer-executable instructions to present the descriptive virtual port name in a  
24 user interface.

1       **15.** A computer program module of claim 13, further comprising  
2 computer-executable instructions to rename the communication port associated  
3 with the IR device from the descriptive virtual port name to another virtual port  
4 name.

5  
6       **16.** An operating system incorporating the computer program module of  
7 claim 13.

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9       **17.** A computer program module, embodied on a computer-readable  
10 medium, comprising:

11           computer-executable instructions to rename a communication port for use in  
12 communicating with an infrared (IR) device from a first virtual port name to a  
13 second virtual port name; and

14           computer-executable instructions to present the second virtual port name in  
15 a user interface.

16  
17       **18.** A computer program module of claim 17, further comprising  
18 computer-executable instructions to rename the communication port associated  
19 with the IR device from the second virtual port name back to the first virtual port  
20 name.

21  
22       **19.** An operating system incorporating the computer program module of  
23 claim 17.

1           **20.**    A computer-implemented method, comprising:  
2            detecting available communication ports, the communication ports having  
3            corresponding virtual port names;  
4            identifying at least one of the communication ports as being used in  
5            communication with an infrared (IR) device; and  
6            renaming the one communication port from its corresponding virtual port  
7            name to a different virtual port name.

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9           **21.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the detecting  
10          comprises attempting to open the communication ports as a way to determine  
11          whether the communication ports are available.

12  
13          **22.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 20, wherein the  
14          identifying comprises checking a system registry to identify the one  
15          communication port associated with the IR device.

16  
17          **23.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 20, further comprising  
18          presenting a list of the virtual port names along with the different virtual port  
19          name.

20  
21          **24.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 20, further comprising  
22          renaming the one communication port from the different virtual port name back to  
23          the corresponding virtual port name.

1           **25.**    A computer-implemented method, comprising:  
2                identifying a communication port that is used for communicating with an  
3                infrared (IR) device; and  
4                renaming the communication port from a first virtual port name to a second  
5                virtual port name.

6

7           **26.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising  
8                presenting the second virtual port name to a user.

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10          **27.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising  
11                renaming the communication port associated with the IR device from the second  
12                virtual port name back to the first virtual port name.

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14          **28.**    A computer-implemented method, comprising:  
15                renaming a communication port associated with an infrared (IR) device  
16                from a first virtual port name to a second virtual port name; and  
17                presenting the second virtual port name to a user.

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19          **29.**    A computer-implemented method of claim 28, further comprising  
20                renaming the communication port associated with the IR device from the second  
21                virtual port name back to the first virtual port name.